

Jared Lerch, Nathan Lerch, Courtney Cochran and Melissa Lerch, and finally his three cherished grandchildren. His vigilance on the lakes as well as his love for family and his State will be pronounced for years to come, both on and off the water.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I was not in attendance to vote on November 16, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 219, and YEA on Roll Call No. 220.

MAYOR JON ARTHUR SIMMONS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize and honor Mayor Jon Arthur Simmons of Vienna, Illinois—a remarkable man who has humbly dedicated his life to service, both to Southern Illinois and our great nation.

Jon was born in Goreville Township, Illinois on June 15, 1941 to John and Veneta Simmons. He attended Vienna High School, graduating in 1959. Four years later, in 1963, Jon was drafted into the United States Army, serving in Vietnam until being honorably discharged in 1965. In 2019, Jon was honored with the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC as part of the Southern Illinois Honor Flight. Jon recalls the experience and the welcome home celebration as humbling, a drastic contrast to his experience coming home from Vietnam where the soldiers were not welcomed and treated unkindly.

Jon became an auctioneer in 1974 which has sent him all over Southern Illinois. His slogan states, "Auction means action, and we guarantee satisfaction". The people with whom he has interacted throughout the years would agree. Furthermore, Jon has demonstrated this motto in his local community, always being a reliable helping hand to whoever is in need. For the last 12 years, Jon has served as the Mayor of Vienna, Illinois and has spent his career working to progress the city he loves.

At the end of 2020, Jon will retire from auctioneering after 46 years and serving as Mayor of Vienna after 12 years. Diabetes, a heart attack, and cancer of the bladder has impacted Jon's health, a consequence of his exposure to agent orange while serving our country.

Madam Speaker, Jon Simmons has proven to be an asset to his family, community, and country. I want to thank Mayor Simmons for his service throughout the years and wish him well in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR MARION GRAYSON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I'm honored to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary work of Belton, TX Mayor Marion Grayson. After seven years of extraordinary work to her beloved city, Mayor Grayson retired on November 10, 2020. Her commitment to public service represents Texas values at their best.

Not only was Marion the first female Mayor of Belton, but under her steady and forward-looking leadership, Belton has seen exponential changes that have improved the quality of life for all and put the city on the track for continued growth in the future. Mayor Grayson's work with Belton's parks and recreation including the Nolan Creek project and the restoration of beloved public infrastructure demonstrates that she is truly for the people and improving the lives of those around her. Not only did she enhance the roads of Belton, but she also worked to improve everything from water quality to performing arts education.

In her wake, Mayor Grayson leaves behind a city, civic organizations, and elected officials all better off due to her involvement. She has brought her tremendous work ethic and commitment to excellence to every challenge she has encountered. It is officials like her that make the City of Belton the welcoming, successful city that it is. I salute her leadership, congratulate her on her retirement, and wish Mayor Marion Grayson nothing but the best in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF CYNTHIA WILBANKS FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Cynthia Wilbanks as she celebrates her retirement. We are proud to recognize her many years of distinguished service with the University of Michigan and the profound impact she has left on our community.

In September 1998, Cynthia Wilbanks was appointed to Vice President of Government Relations at the University of Michigan. In this capacity, Wilbanks has directed U-M's government relation efforts at the local, state, and federal level and has been tirelessly advocate for the university's students, faculty, and staff. Wilbanks has also held other notable leadership positions at U-M. She has served on the Bentley Historical Library Executive Committee, the Bicentennial Planning Committee, the Ginsberg Center Board, the Honorary Degree Committee, the Michigan in Washington Program Faculty Advisory Committee, and the Residency Appeals Committee. In addition, she served as Interim Vice President for Communications in 2007 and Interim Vice President for Development from 2002 to 2003.

Cynthia Wilbanks has decades of public service experience. She previously served as district director and Washtenaw County field representative for U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell and also served as a staff assistant for U.S. Rep. Marvin Esch. Wilbanks's extensive knowledge of the legislative process augmented her effectiveness as VP of Government Relations and enabled U-M to better meet its legislative priorities. In addition, Wilbanks has been an active member of several community and civic organizations. Before joining U-M, Wilbanks was the president of Michigan's Children. In addition, she has served on the board of directors for Ann Arbor SPARK, the Riverside Arts Center Foundation, the Bank of Ann Arbor, and the Center for Michigan, and has been involved in leadership roles with the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum and Glacier Hills Retirement Center. Wilbanks has been recognized for her remarkable accomplishments by a host of organizations. She was named one of the 100 most influential women in Metro Detroit by Crain's Detroit Business, has been a recipient of the Spirit Award, and received a Women of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council, to name only a few.

Throughout her career, Wilbanks has been recognized as a dedicated and compassionate leader who strives to effect lasting change. She has been a strong voice for the University of Michigan, expanding the breadth of the institution and the opportunities it can extend to students and surrounding communities. She used her knowledge, expertise, and authority to make a difference and positively impact the lives of countless Michiganders. Without a doubt, Wilbanks's impact will forever endure, and we are all grateful for the remarkable strides she made.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the retirement of Cynthia Wilbanks from the University of Michigan. I am proud to honor her work, accomplishments, and significant community impact. We thank her for her outstanding leadership and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JAMES JENSEN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and career of James D. Jensen—a lawyer, assistant U.S. attorney, and a judge who resided for nearly two decades in our court systems.

Born in Denver, OH, Judge Jensen built an educational career as well as a professional career out of Ohio institutions. Graduating from Buchtel High School he pursued his bachelors at Wittenberg University then his law degree at the University of Toledo, where he later taught as a professor of law inspiring a new generation of public servants.

Jensen's career found its beginning in private practice and soon transformed into a public endeavor as an assistant U.S. attorney in Toledo, and in this position was appointed to senior litigation counsel. He then served a year at the Department of Justice as the assistant director for the attorney general Advocacy Institute, teaching courses at the institute